

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims (~~strikethrough~~ and double brackets [[]]) indicating deletion and underline indicating insertion) as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A foot engaging member for use with a climbing tree stand assembly ~~of the type~~ including a platform and a support member attached to the platform, comprising:

a mounting portion for attachment to the climbing tree stand assembly; and

a rigid tail portion having a curved elongate body and extending away from the head mounting portion.

2. (Original) The foot engaging member of Claim 1, wherein the mounting portion is configured to be attached to the support member of the climbing tree stand assembly.

3. (Original) The foot engaging member of Claim 2, wherein the tail portion is configured to extend generally downwardly toward the platform of the tree stand assembly.

4. (Original) The foot engaging member of Claim 1, wherein the foot engaging member is substantially rigid.

5. (Original) The foot engaging member of Claim 4, wherein the foot engaging member comprises molded plastic.

6. (Original) The foot engaging member of Claim 1, wherein the mounting portion is configured to secure the foot engaging member to either the support member or to the platform.

7. (Original) The foot engaging member of Claim 6, wherein the mounting portion is secured to the support member with a fastener.
8. (Currently Amended) A climbing tree stand assembly comprising:
 - a platform;
 - a pair of support arms attached to the platform; and
 - a pair of rigid footholds stirrup-like devices attached to the platform or the support arms and extending generally over the platform.
9. (Currently Amended) The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 8, wherein the pair of stirrup-like devices footholds each comprise a curved elongate body portion and a clamping portion for attaching to either the platform or the support arms.
10. (Original) The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 9, wherein clamping portions are attached to the support arms.
11. (Currently Amended) The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim [[8]] 9, wherein the curved elongate body portions extend generally over the platform.
12. (Currently Amended) The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 9, wherein the stirrup-like devices footholds are substantially rigid.

13. (Currently Amended) The climbing tree stand assembly of Claim 12, wherein the ~~stirrup-like devices~~ footholds each comprise a molded plastic body.

14. (Currently Amended) In a climbing tree stand ~~of the type~~ including a platform and a pair of support arms attached to the platform, the climbing tree stand for use by a user, the improvement therein comprising:

a pair of rigid foothold devices attached to the platform or the support arms.

15. (Original) The improvement of Claim 14 wherein the rigid foothold devices extend generally between the support arms and the platform.

16. (Original) The improvement of Claim 14 wherein the rigid foothold devices are attached to the support arms and extend toward the platform.

17. (Original) The improvement of Claim 14 wherein the rigid foothold devices comprise a curved elongate body portion and an attachment portion for attaching to either the platform or the support arms.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The improvement of Claim 17 wherein the rigid foothold devices comprise a molded plastic body.

20. (Currently Amended) The improvement of Claim 17 wherein the attachment portion of the rigid foothold devices comprises a ~~yoke-like element~~ yoke for fastening to one of the support arms.